

57. The screening method of claim 56 wherein the PKC $\epsilon$  is exposed to the test agent in vitro.

58. The screening method of claim 56 wherein the PKC $\epsilon$  is exposed to the test agent by contacting a cell or cell lysate comprising the PKC $\epsilon$  with the test agent.

59. The screening method of claim 56 wherein the PKC $\epsilon$  is at least partially purified.

60. A method of screening for an agent that modulates anxiety, said method comprising:

- a) exposing a PKC $\epsilon$  binding partner to a test agent;
- b) detecting binding of the test agent to the PKC $\epsilon$  binding partner,

wherein the ability to bind the PKC $\epsilon$  binding partner indicates that the test agent is a potential modulator of anxiety.

61. The screening method of claim 60 wherein the PKC $\epsilon$  binding partner is exposed to the test agent in vitro.

62. The screening method of claim 60 wherein the PKC $\epsilon$  binding partner is exposed to the test agent by contacting a cell or cell lysate comprising the PKC $\epsilon$  binding partner with the test agent.

63. The screening method of claim 60 wherein the PKC $\epsilon$  binding partner comprises a PKC $\epsilon$  substrate.

64. A method of screening for an agent that modulates anxiety, said method comprising:

a) exposing a functional PKC $\epsilon$ , or a cell or cell lysate comprising a functional PKC $\epsilon$ , to a test agent;

b) determining whether the test agent modulates PKC $\epsilon$ , wherein the ability to modulate PKC $\epsilon$  indicates that the test agent is a potential modulator of anxiety.

PP  
Cont

SUB (2)

65. The screening method of claim 64 wherein the exposing of (a) is carried out in vitro.

66. The screening method of claim 64 wherein the cell or cell lysate comprising the functional PKC $\epsilon$  is exposed to the test agent.

67. The screening method of claim 64 wherein the functional PKC $\epsilon$  is at least partially purified when exposed to the test agent.

*SVB E3)* 68. The screening method of claim 64 wherein determining whether the test agent modulates PKC $\epsilon$  comprises measuring an activity of PKC $\epsilon$  in the presence of the test agent.

69. The screening method of claim 64 wherein determining whether the test agent modulates PKC $\epsilon$  comprises measuring the ability of the test agent to inhibit PKC $\epsilon$ .

*SVB E3)* 70. The screening method of claim 69 wherein determining whether the test agent modulates PKC $\epsilon$  comprises measuring the ability of the test agent to selectively inhibit PKC $\epsilon$  activity.

*SVB E4)* 71. The screening method of claim 64 additionally comprising:  
c) administering to an animal a test agent that modulates the activity of PKC $\epsilon$ ; and  
d) measuring one or more indicators of anxiety to determine whether the test agent modulates anxiety in the animal.

72. The screening method of claim 71 wherein the animal displays one or more symptoms of anxiety in the absence of the test agent.

73. The screening method of claim 71 wherein the animal is exposed to an anxiety-provoking stimulus prior to the measuring of (d).

74. The screening method of claim 71 wherein the measuring of (d) comprises measuring an indicator of anxiety to determine whether the test agent reduces anxiety in the animal.

75. The screening method of claim 71 wherein the one or more indicators of anxiety is/are selected from the group consisting of: time spent and distance traveled in the center of an open field, time spent and distance traveled on the open arms of an elevated plus maze, basal and stress-induced levels of stress hormones.

76. A method of screening for an agent that modulates anxiety, said method comprising:

- SUBES)
- a) selecting an agent that modulates PKC $\epsilon$  as a test agent;
  - b) administering the test agent to an animal; and
  - c) measuring one or more indicators of anxiety to determine whether the test agent modulates anxiety in the animal.

77. The screening method of claim 76 wherein the animal displays one or more symptoms of anxiety in the absence of the test agent.

78. The screening method of claim 76 wherein the animal is exposed to an anxiety-provoking stimulus prior to the measuring of (c).

79. The screening method of claim 76 wherein the measuring of (c) comprises measuring an indicator of anxiety to determine whether the test agent reduces anxiety in the animal.

80. The screening method of claim 76 wherein the one or more indicators of anxiety is/are selected from the group consisting of: time spent and distance traveled in the center of an open field, time spent and distance traveled on the open arms of an elevated plus maze, basal and stress-induced levels of stress hormones.

201 Cont

These amendments are made without prejudice and are not to be construed as abandonment of the previously claimed subject matter or agreement with the Examiner's position. In accordance with the requirements of 37 C.F.R. § 1.121, a marked up version of the claims showing the changes, is attached as Appendix A. For the Examiner's convenience, a complete set of the currently pending claims is also provided as Appendix B.